PLACER OPERATIONAL AREA

EAST SIDE EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

1. GENERAL

This is a plan is for conduct of a physical evacuation of one or more communities in the unincorporated Placer County area on the eastern side of the County that is necessitated by a larger incident, most probably a forest fire or flood. For the purposes of this plan, the "eastern side" comprises all of Placer County from just west of Cisco Grove to the Nevada State line not including the areas within the Tahoe National Forest and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The dense forests, rugged terrain, and the scarcity of roads in the area – problems that present difficulties for first responders and residents/transients alike - complicate any evacuation.

Whereas the potential exists for severe winter storms, mass casualty incidents or floods on the eastern side, forest fire remains the greatest single threat to communities. For all but the wettest of months, homes and businesses in wildland-urban interface areas are particularly susceptible to fire damage and destruction. During fire season, the combination of dense forests, heavy fuel loads, low humidity, potential for high winds and the steep terrain in the Sierra Nevadas can rapidly turn even small fires into lethal, major disasters. Despite a record of very successful evacuations in the past, the limited number of roads in the area always makes evacuations problematic. The need to quickly execute a rapid evacuation of residents, businesses, transients, and even pets, requires detailed planning, de-confliction of response actions, and cooperation between first responders and supporting agencies alike.

Therefore, in order to meet this planning challenge, the Placer County Sheriff's Office (PCSO), the five eastern Fire Protection Districts/Departments, California Highway Patrol (CHP), USDA Forest Service (USFS), American Red cross (ARC), the County Office of Emergency Services (OES) and other state and federal contributing agencies developed this plan to help increase preparedness, and facilitate the efficient and rapid evacuation of threatened communities in the far eastern end of the County. While focusing on fire-induced evacuations, the plan remains applicable to all evacuations in general.

2. PURPOSE

This plan prescribes specific responsibilities for first responders, County staff and other state, federal and non-profit contributing agencies for conducting an emergency evacuation of one or more communities as part of a larger natural disaster or human-caused incident on the east side of Placer County.

3. ASSUMPTIONS

- a. An evacuation order is given coincident with first response/initial attack.
- b. Evacuation of the entire eastern side of the County is not required.
- c. Most, but not all, of the roads and pre-designated shelter and evacuation centers on the eastern side are available for use.
- d. Mutual aid resources for all disciplines are available.
- e. There will be limited County emergency management organization support in the initial stages of an incident.

4. SCOPE

This plan applies to an evacuation of one or more communities due to a disaster or incident, response to which affects all public jurisdictions on the eastern side. It also applies to evacuations necessitated by incidents that start in the Tahoe National Forest or the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit that threaten County areas. Portions of this plan and agency responsibilities delineated herein are applicable for requests for mutual aid from adjacent Counties impacted by similar incidents or events.

For planning purposes, "evacuation" begins upon the order of the Incident Commander and concludes upon IC release of the area to general reentry. Evacuee support and damage/safety assessment activities occurring after completion of the initial evacuation but prior to general reentry are more correctly the subject of incident specific plans. However, some activities are referred to in this plan for clarity in illustrating the relationship between "incident command" as exercised by first responders and "emergency management" as exercised by the County through the Emergency Management Organization (EMO).

5. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

This Plan complies with the Placer County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), the California Emergency Plan and legal authorities in the California Emergency Services Act, and is developed by authority of Placer County Code, Chapters 2 and 9.

6. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

a. Initial Response: Initial response to a disaster or incident occurring on the eastern side is by local, state and federal resources using Unified Command methodology. Upon assessment of the incident and in consultation with other responding agencies, Incident Command (IC) makes the decision that the incident has the real potential of becoming too great to handle or is actually beyond the capability of available resources, and therefore orders an evacuation. The IC directs that notifications be made, and directs promulgation of evacuation notices throughout affected areas via emergency notification systems and television and radio stations. As the incident is both multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary, the

IC requests OES response to provide incident emergency management. Subsequently, OES activates those members of the Emergency Management Organization (EMO) needed to support the evacuation and the greater incident, and ensures either an incident EOC on the eastern side or the EOC in Auburn is made operational.

The following functions are normally present in typical evacuation scenarios:

• Evacuation Alerts, Warnings and Orders:

Dissemination of evacuation alerts, warnings and orders are the responsibility of law enforcement. The Placer County Sheriff's Office (PCSO), assisting law enforcement, and other personnel as available commence evacuation notifications using all means such as door to door visits, and use of handheld, vehicular and helicopter mounted public address systems. The IC notifies dispatch as well to disseminate instructions and warnings via the emergency notification system and assigns Incident PIO to provide the same evacuation instructions to the media (listed at Attachment B) for emergency broadcast.

• Evacuation Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Emergency medical services for an evacuation are provided by all fire protection districts through engine-company Advanced Life Support (ALS) and the Truckee (TFPD) and North Tahoe Fire Protection Districts (NTFPD) ambulance service. Ambulance Mutual Aid is requested through the single ordering point established by the IC. The Placer County Medical/Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) receives requests for medical mutual aid and, if unable to fill the request locally, will forward it to the Regional Disaster Medical Health Coordinator (RDMHC) for action. Requests for aerial evacuation are made from the ICP to dispatch. NTFPD and TFPD also provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) medical transport, i.e., ambulance evacuation/transportation of the medically fragile from health care facilities or homes.

• Evacuation Emergency Public Information

Public information about the evacuation will be disseminated at the direction of the IC, most often through the Incident PIO. In the event of a fast-moving fire or other life-threatening situation, the Incident PIO, a member of the Tahoe PIO Team or a member of the Auburn PIO Team should be assigned to begin notifications. Using IC guidance, this person will draft, obtain approval and then disseminate the message to critical media. (Attachment B).

Once the County EOC is operational, public information officers from all agencies establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) in which advisories, warnings, traffic updates, press releases, etc. are written, edited, assembled

and, after approval of the IC, released to the public and the media. The JIC

also collects and disseminates information gathered from government agencies, businesses or schools regarding evacuation centers (locations where evacuees can get information on the evacuation) and emergency shelters (with overnight provisions), pet disposition, provision of security in evacuated areas, etc. Radio and television stations interrupt regular programming to broadcast emergency instructions as appropriate. Residents and visitors will be encouraged to also monitor instructions provided over the air, on car radios, or on-line. Lastly, the EOC will maintain an emergency evacuation information message on the Public Information hotline at (530) 886-5310 in Auburn, and (530) 584-1590 on the eastern side, as well as on the County website.

• Evacuation and Reentry

In Unified Command, the decision to evacuate or to prioritize evacuations of multiple areas is made after consultation between Incident Commanders. Execution of the actual evacuation order is by PCSO, with assistance from all other responding law enforcement, if and as available. Individuals will be strongly encouraged to evacuate, however those who refuse evacuation will be allowed to shelter-in-place. During enforcement of the evacuation, law enforcement will encourage family, friends and neighbors to assist any who require assistance (medically fragile, aged, etc). Volunteers, if available, may also be employed to assist those needing help to include assisting those without vehicles get to evacuation bus stops when and if Tahoe Area regional Transit (TART) or Tahoe Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD) or other buses or means of public transport are used.

To facilitate a rapid and effective evacuation, the IC will identify all directly threatened and potentially threatened areas for evacuation. Evacuation centers and emergency shelters for the evacuees have been pre-coordinated and contact information determined (Attachment A). Upon consultation with OES and American Red Cross, Unified Command will select the emergency shelters and evacuation centers to be used. The decision is based on the threat and the probability that the facilities and routes of ingress and egress will remain out of danger. Pending OES arrival at the incident, the senior County representative coordinates with ARC and HHS to ensure designated facilities are put into operational order.

Reentry <u>during</u> active response: The Incident Commander is the sole authority for allowing individual reentry into any secured incident area, either on an unlimited or escorted basis, during active response operations. Most often requests for reentry are by homeowners wishing to recover pets or family items, but, as law enforcement maintains incident site security for any and all incidents, any IC decision on reentry is made after full consultation with law enforcement.

Reentry <u>after</u> active response: Although not the main focus of this plan, upon transition from initial or extended response to remediation of the

incident area, general reentry will only be allowed after completion of safety and damage assessments by numerous agencies such as DPW-Roads, Environmental Health, Building Department, and law enforcement/fire forensic investigators, etc. The Damage/Safety Assessment Teams determine the state of damage and threats to public safety from unstable structures such as fire/flood damaged and now unsupported chimneys and walls as well as from other threats such as damaged or weakened roadways, downed lines or fire weakened trees or telephone/power poles. Environmental Health as an example has the responsibility for determining the presence of hazardous materials resulting from burned structures or of contaminants left by receding floodwaters, etc. These assessments will determine, prior to any IC decision, that the area is safe or hazards are clearly marked allowing for unrestricted access by the general public.

• Incident Command and Emergency Management

Tactical employment of fire, law and emergency medical resources, as well as the decision to warn, or evacuate or shelter-in-place is the purview of the IC, and is executed from the Incident Command Post (ICP). Evacuation orders issued during an active emergency response are coordinated under the direction of Incident Commanders acting in Unified Command. It is imperative that all agencies affected by the response, or having critical infrastructure affected or potentially affected by the incident, or which act solely in a support role, initially respond and send representation to the ICP. All agencies should self-refer to the ICP whenever possible rather than waiting on a request to do so.

Note: Attachment E is a guide for both fire and law incident commanders who are considering or ordering an emergency evacuation. The Attachment contains general information on the technical aspects of ordering an evacuation as well as a check list for incident commanders.

Upon the opening of an incident Emergency Operations Center (EOC) by the County, the IC may release some of agency representatives to the EOC. The senior County representative on-scene or OES meets with the Unified Command to better understand the direction the incident is taking and ascertain the best location for an incident EOC, and potentially, an incident base. With that information, the senior County representative also consults with ARC to ensure any requested County support or facility owner/manager concerns are addressed to facilitate the opening and operation of shelters and evacuation centers.

Once alerted, the local Emergency Management Organization (EMO) reports to and works from the incident EOC to provide emergency management and County coordinated support. Upon arrival on-scene, OES assumes direction of active emergency management of the incident from the incident EOC. The EMO maintains communications with the Auburn EOC (if activated) as well as with regional and state agencies, assisting agencies, and the ICP. It coordinates non-tactical matters such as emergency care and shelter, animal services, provision of DPW traffic control assets, damage and safety assessments, evacuation centers and Local Assistance Centers used during recovery, etc. It is through the EMO that the decision to issue a proclamation of local emergency is made and information needed for preparation is provided. Locations that can potentially be used for an incident EOC have been pre-designated and are listed at Attachment D.

• Traffic Control

CHP is primarily responsible for traffic control, however, other agencies such as the Sheriff's Office and the Department of Public Works can and often do assist on an as-needed basis. Potential issues include access and egress for emergency vehicles and evacuees alike, and minimizing or preventing unauthorized traffic entering the affected area. The Unified Command establishes evacuation priorities, and CHP further designates the supporting routes. Placer County Department of Public Works (DPW) and CAL TRANS support traffic control with traffic control implements and personnel, as requested.

The primary roads in the area, Interstate 80 (I-80) and State Highways 28, 89 and 267 comprise the major evacuation routes. Depending on the location and movement of the incident, the Unified Command designates which is or are to be used for evacuation and which for emergency vehicle ingress and egress. When necessary, surface streets will also be designated for evacuees and for emergency vehicle traffic. A map of the major road networks is at Attachment A.

• Transportation

Once students and school sites are secured, school or Tahoe Area Regional Transit (TART) buses may be utilized for evacuations, if required. This may be a viable option during severe winter storms when roads are not passable to normal vehicular traffic. Other buses besides those mentioned above, if available in the area, will also be considered for use. Contact information for buses is at Attachment B.

There may also be instances where boats could be used for ferrying evacuees across or down the lake due to lakeside road destruction or landslides that close the roads.

• Resources and Support

Discipline-specific mutual aid for fire, law enforcement and emergency

medical services is requested through the single resource ordering point at the ICP. Requests for additional or other resources such as animal services, public works, Red Cross, etc. are requested through (1) agency or OES representatives at the ICP, (2) Dispatch, or (3) once established, through the incident EOC. Requests unable to be filled locally are forwarded to the Regional EOC (REOC) for fulfillment by regional and state resources.

Numerous public and private sector resources are also available to assist in evacuations or emergencies and are delineated in the Tahoe-Truckee Area Emergency Resource List, January 2007 (published separately).

Communications

Responders, mutual aid resources and contributing agencies use existing radio communications systems on frequencies coordinated through PSAPs. Additional mobile communications support is available and is requested either through Dispatch or directly from the Communications Coordinator in the EOC. Cellular and satellite phones, as available with local agencies and personnel as well as with responding and supporting agencies, are used as local service and prevailing weather allows. Amateur radio operators, living or working on the eastern slope and in the Auburn area are also available and will be requested by OES to support any major incident involving an evacuation. Requests for Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS), used to prioritize emergency communications traffic when local communications overwhelmed, are requested by Incident Command or by the EMO Communications Coordinator.

• Care and Shelter

The Division of Human Services in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) coordinates mass care shelters as delineated in the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The American Red Cross (ARC) normally opens and operates one or more pre-designated shelters (Attachment C), but County staff responsibility remains with Human Services. Shelters will be selected based on near- and long-term site security (based the direction of movement of fire or flooding, etc.) and ease of access.

The Medical/Health Operational Area Coordinator is a position jointly held by the Public Health Officer and the Executive Director of Sierra-Sacramento Valley EMSA (S-SV), responsible during an evacuation for assessing immediate medical needs, coordinating medical evaluations and all other tasks assigned by the Health and Safety Code. Mental health counseling of evacuees is coordinated by the Adult System of Care Division of HHS.

• Animal Services

Shelters to accommodate pets/domestic animals (hereinafter "pets") will be set

up by Animal Services. However, care and evacuation of pets remains the responsibility of the pet owner. Animal Services coordinates emergency evacuation and care of pets when owners are precluded from entering an area or if pets have had to be abandoned due to the incident or the owner's absence. Pet volunteer organizations may also be available to assist in sheltering. Pets evacuated will be transported to designated areas and held in more permanent custodial care until the incident is resolved or the animal(s) is/are claimed by owners. Local facilities will be designated and promulgated to the public by Animal Services at the time of the incident. Owners able to transport their own pets or animals during an emergency, but who still require temporary shelter, will be directed by Animal Services via traffic control, road signage or public service announcements to emergency holding areas.

b. Extended Response: Unified Command continues in the field in response to the incident. The EMO operates from an incident EOC on the eastern side or from the EOC in Auburn depending on the needs of the incident. The principal focus of extended response focuses on those activities necessary to ensure rapid reentry and comprise, among other things, damage and safety assessments and preparation and coordination with local, state and federal officials for set up and operation of Local Assistance Centers/Disaster Recovery Centers.

7. Evacuation Responsibilities by Agency

As an evacuation is only one aspect of a larger incident, all Departments and agencies listed below retain responsibility for completing EOP-listed tasks in addition to these evacuationspecific responsibilities.

A. Eastern Side Special Districts

1) Fire Protection Districts/Fire Departments

- Provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency medical services, i.e., engine company ALS
- Provide ALS transport (NTFPD and TFPD only)
- Assist law enforcement with alerts, warning and evacuations as available
- Provide technical fire and geographic area expertise to Unified Command

2) Tahoe Truckee Unified School District

- Open and support use of requested school(s) for use as emergency shelters or evacuation centers.
- Provide school buses to assist in incidents/evacuations, as requested.

B. Placer County Agencies

1) Placer County Principal Management Analyst – Tahoe

- Senior County representative at incident pending arrival of PM, OES.
- In consultation with OES and the IC and considering the physical characteristics of the incident, select location for Incident EOC. Coordinate sites for emergency shelters/evacuation centers and ensure their operational status.
- Serve as Incident EOC Director pending arrival of OES, and direct EMO members of County staff on eastern side to report to EOC.

2) Office of Emergency Services (OES)

- Provide County emergency management support of the evacuation as part of a larger, more significant incident such as forest fire, flood, etc.
- Activate the Emergency Management Organization in Auburn or at the Incident EOC on the Eastern Slope, as appropriate. This includes County Public Information Lead/Team if activation hasn't already occurred
- Coordinate with State (OES, CHP, CAL TRANS, etc.) as well as with ederal agencies, if deployed, for support and to provide current incident operational information.
- Consider long-term ramifications of the evacuation and begin planning for return of evacuees.
- Begin planning and coordination for incident recovery.

3) Placer County Sheriff's Office (PCSO)

- Alert and warn all persons and businesses to be evacuated, as required.
- Implement evacuation notify residents and businesses, and certify areas as clear of inhabitants, transients, those using recreational facilities, etc.
- Provide mobile communications support for the evacuation, as requested.
- Provide Search and Rescue team support as requested to support the evacuation or evacuees.

4) Public Information Officer (PIO)

- Coordinate and prepare advisories, warnings, updates and evacuation orders for broadcast to responding agencies, school authorities, media, and the public.
- Include evacuation information in Joint Information Center (JIC) operations and provide it to media, the public, and other jurisdictions.

5) Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

♦ Human Services Division

Provide or coordinate with ARC and other agencies for the opening and operation of shelters for evacuees.

♦ Adult System of Care

Provide or coordinate mental health services for evacuees

♦ Environmental Health

- As a member of Damage and Safety Assessment Teams, provide technical, environmental health expertise to IC for determining advisability of allowing reentry into evacuated areas during active response operations.
- Coordinate or provide testing of evacuated areas for hazardous materials, environmental health hazards and infectious diseases.

Animal Services

- Provide or arrange transport and care of abandoned pets and those unable to be transported by their owners.
- Coordinate and manage holding areas for pets of evacuees for those unable to care for their pets or those in emergency shelters

6) Department of Public Works - Tahoe

- Assist evacuation with traffic closure level analysis and traffic control equipment, as requested
- Provide evacuation support (vehicles, personnel, etc.) as requested.
- Assist with maintaining County road access as requested in matters such as clearing downed trees, snow and mudslide removal and flood affect abatement.
- Participate in Safety and Damage Assessment Teams, as needed.

7) Planning Department – Tahoe

Land Use Manager for Tahoe Area is second in order of seniority among Placer County agency heads on the eastern side.

8) Building Department – Tahoe

Participate in Safety and Damage Assessment Teams, as needed

9) Facility Services Department

Participate in Safety and Damage Assessment Teams, as needed

C. State Agencies

1) California Highway Patrol

- Provide evacuation traffic control.
- Determine primary and alternate evacuation routes.
- Assist PCSO, as requested, in alerting, warning and evacuations.

2) California Department of Transportation (CAL TRANS)

Assist CHP as requested with traffic control

3) California State Parks

Provide disposition and status of visitors and staff in park facilities before, during and after an evacuation.

D. USDA Forest Service

Provide disposition of visitors and staff in forests before, during and after an evacuation.

E. Other Agencies

1) American Red Cross

Open and operate emergency shelters, as necessary, and coordinate local volunteer support of the shelters.

2) Sierra-Sacramento Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency (S-SV)

In conjunction with the Placer County Public Health Officer, execute all Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator tasks regarding provision of medical care for evacuees, coordination of medical and health resources, etc. per provisions of the Public Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.150-153.

3) Out of County Mutual Aid Providers

Law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services mutual aid providers in Nevada and El Dorado Counties and the State of Nevada are requested to maintain familiarity with this plan to provide mutual aid as requested.

Attachments:

- A. Maps: Road Networks and Key Emergency Facility Locations
- B. Important Phone Numbers/Contact Information including Media
- **C.** Contact Information for Shelters and Evacuation Centers
- **D.** Alternate EOC Locations
- **E**. Immediate Emergency Evacuation Guidelines for Incident Commanders